



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Marketing and  
Regulatory  
Programs

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

Washington, DC  
20250

## VETERINARY SERVICES (VS) NOTICE 98-12

**Subject:** Sampling of Animal Serum Shipments for Species Verification

**Date:** February 9, 1999

**To:** Port Inspectors, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ)  
Directors, PPQ Regions  
Directors, VS Regions  
Assistant to the Deputy Administrator, PPQ  
Area Veterinarians in Charge, VS  
Director, National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL)

This Notice replaces VS Notices dated December 11, 1992 and July 30, 1996. The purpose of this Notice is to outline the procedures for sampling commercial serum shipments to verify the species of origin.

Several commercial U.S. importers of animal serum have begun to import non-ruminant serum from China and other countries. China is one of the countries affected with several animal diseases, such as foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest, and hog cholera, which are exotic to the United States. The only animal sera that are allowed to be imported from China are from non-livestock species such as mice, rats, dogs, cats, guinea pigs, and monkeys. To ensure that no sera of other species is being imported, particularly livestock sera, permits are issued with the provision that the serum shipments are subject to random sampling for species verification.

The serum is usually shipped frozen in 500 and 1000 milliliter (mL) plastic containers. The size of the shipment varies between a few liters to over twenty liters. Each shipment must be accompanied by an **original** official certificate endorsed by a full-time, salaried veterinarian from the exporting country confirming that the serum was obtained from healthy animals that had not been inoculated with or exposed to any infectious livestock or avian pathogen. The permit and accompanying certificate are reviewed at the port of entry by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), PPQ officers. The shipment is allowed to proceed to the consignee identified on the permit if the documents are correct.



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If the test results determine that the sample is not from the species designated on the permit, the shipment must either be destroyed or returned to the shipper. If the importer elects to have the shipment destroyed, the Animal Products Staff will coordinate the issuance of a destruction order.

Port Inspectors, PPQ et al.

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Questions should be referred to Dr. John Cougill, Animal Products Staff, Riverdale, Maryland, at Area Code (301) 734-3277.

/signed/

Alfonso Torres  
Deputy Administrator  
Veterinary Services

Attachments

# ANIMAL SERUM PERMITS SAMPLING RECORD

Company/Importer:

Permit No.:

Issued:

[illegible]

**95 Percent Confidence Table**

Total Number of Containers (any volume) in Shipment	Number of Containers to be Sampled
< 19	All
19	18
20	19
25	22
30	25
35	28
40	30
45	33